

asked for a time limit to the British occupation or in any other way. France similarly declared that she had no intention of altering the status of Morocco, and we promised not to obstruct her activities. In both countries commercial liberty was to prevail for at least thirty years. No fortifications were to be permitted on the coast opposite Gibraltar. France was to reach an understanding with Spain. A Khedivial Decree laid down regulations relating to the Egyptian Debt, and, subject to acceptance by the Powers, gave the Egyptian Government a free hand in the disposal of its resources so long as the punctual payment of interest was assured. Next in importance was the settlement of the Newfoundland fishery dispute, France surrendering certain treaty privileges in return for territorial concessions in West Africa. A third document liquidated disputes in Siam, Madagascar and the New Hebrides. In addition to the published agreement there were secret articles envisaging the eventual partition of Morocco into French and Spanish zones of influence, a plan worked out in detail in the secret articles of the Franco-Spanish treaty of October, 1904.

Even more important than the terms of the Anglo-French settlement was the new relationship which it created. For Lansdowne it was merely a colonial agreement, the clearing up of tiresome disputes. The idea of encircling Germany, of tying ourselves to France, of building up a Triple Entente, never entered his head. For Delcassé, on the other hand, it was far more than a regional transaction. "We are liquidating all our past quarrels," he remarked to Paléologue, his assistant at the Quai d'Orsay, on February 1, 1904; "but I shall not stop there. It should lead to a political alliance with England. What fair horizons would then open to us ! If

we could lean
both on Russia and England, how strong
should we be in
dealing with Germany ! " The recovery of the
Rhine provinces,
declares Paleologue, was his darling dream, the
unavowed goal
of all his efforts. A conflict of arms, if it ever
came, must be
preceded by a contest of wits. In four crowded
years he had
bought the consent of Italy, England and Spain to
his Morocco
plans, had loosened the ties of the Triple
Alliance, had won the
confidence of England without forfeiting that of
his Russian
ally ; and perhaps the old and the new friends
might one day
make up their feud.

The agreement of London and Paris to afford
each other
diplomatic support in Egypt and Morocco
was an elastic